



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## **Attention Hunters with Dogs**

Each waterfowl season, especially in the earlier warmer months, there have been cases of hunting dogs contracting potentially serious bacterial infections in their paws after a day of hunting at Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge and Carson Lake & Pasture near Fallon. These infections are caused by naturally occurring bacteria in the water and soil which enters the dog's body through cuts and punctures. Some of these wounds, especially if they are in the dog's pads, are so small, they are very difficult to see. Symptoms of infection are painful and swollen paws and/or legs, and fever; the onset can occur within a few hours after exposure.

Please check your dog carefully during and after your hunt, and if these symptoms are present, you should contact your Veterinarian immediately. Major infection occurs from *Aeromonas* and lower levels of *Klebsiella*. The infections can be successfully treated with antibiotics, but it is important to seek medical care as quickly as possible.